

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
Town Hall – May 4, 2010 – 6:00 PM
MINUTES

1.0 First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Selectmen John Bendoraitis and Linda Finelli and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present. Audience: 5.

2.0 **Public Forum**
None

3.0 **Minutes**

3.1 Motion made by Finelli seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2010 Regular Meeting, amended as follows: Item 6.6 under New Business should read: *“Since the chair for the Energy Task Force Advisory Committee was not yet present, this item was tabled for later discussion.”* Also, Item 7.1 under Appointments should read: *“Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to reappoint Gina Wentworth, Sue Leone and Robert Wentworth to the Summer Dance Fest Committee as recommended by the Committee, terms to expire on 1/1/13.”*

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.2 Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2010 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.3 Motion made by Finelli seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2010 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.0 **Correspondence**

4.1 Okonuk read a letter from a resident requesting to bring the proposed ordinance for a split budget to the Annual Town Meeting. Okonuk has explained to the resident that his letter was received too late to bring it to this year's Annual town Meeting, but that she would bring it before the Board of Selectmen for discussion. The Selectmen agreed that since the proposed ordinance in question failed at a previous Town Meeting, it should now be referred back to the Board of Finance for further consideration if they wished to do so. Okonuk will forward the letter to the Board of Finance. Bendoraitis sees no reason to revisit the issue at this time.

4.2 The Selectmen's Office has received two letters signed by multiple residents on Card Street regarding truck traffic on the road. The issue will be taken up under New Business.

5.0 **Old Business**

5.1 Mark Elliott was present on behalf of the LVFD to request the extended use of Aspinall Property for training purposes through the spring of 2011. Bendoraitis said that although he appreciates the purpose of using the building for training, he would like to see the site cleared. He also expressed concern that the building might become difficult to keep secure from unwanted entry, but Elliott said that would not be an issue as they are using a “controlled burn” within the building, which does not weaken the structure or make it accessible from the outside. The Selectmen agreed to extend the use of the building through the end of the calendar year, but would like an update from the LVFD at the December 7, 2010 Regular Meeting; Elliot agreed. Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to extend the use of the Aspinall property for LVFD training through the end of 2010, with an update from the LVFD at the December 7, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Elliot also brought up the question of funds remaining from the Fire Safety Complex project account. Okonuk said that she requested an update from the Finance Office but had not yet received it. She said that the Board of Selectmen will request that the Board of Finance look into the matter. Okonuk said that she will request that the BOF adds this issue to their next meeting agenda.

5.2 Chairman of the Ethics Code Drafting Committee, Dori Bruce, and member Craig Durand were present to give an update on the progress that the Committee has made to date. Bruce explained that the Committee has been working on their revised draft for a Code of Ethics for all volunteer members of Municipal boards, committees and commissions. They are looking for input from the Selectmen regarding the issue of financial disclosure and business interest as it relates to possible conflicts of interest. The Selectmen were all in

agreement that financial disclosure should not be a requirement, but rather a voluntary disclosure. Finelli expressed concern that the Committee is “opening a can of worms” (by requiring such disclosures) and that it may discourage people from volunteering. Okonuk agreed, and said that any such requirement would have to be worded in such a way as to be easily understood, and not be intimidating. Finelli suggested that a disclosure form would allow people to “self identify” any possible conflicts. Bruce asked if such information would be public or private, and Bendoraitis said that he would be against any information being “private” as everything should be open to the public. The discussion continued regarding what to do in the event of a conflict arising, and the Selectmen agreed that any complaints would be up to the Ethics Committee to oversee any complaints.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Tax Collector Joyce Hofmann was in attendance to recommend to the Selectmen the promotion of Paul Spedaliere from part-time Tax Clerk to part-time Assistant Tax Collector. Spedaliere has been attending certification classes. Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to promote Paul Spedaliere from part-time Tax Clerk to part-time Assistant Tax Collector, at the provisional rate of \$14.83 per hour, effective May 1, 2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.2 Okonuk explained that she has received a proposal for James Frasier to reconstruct the front steps of Town Hall. Frasier is highly recommended by several residents for whom he has done stone work. The Selectmen discussed the possibility of installing permanent step lighting at the same time the steps will be rebuilt. Okonuk said that she will get an estimate from Nichols & Son Electric and then bring it back to the Selectmen for their consideration at a later date.

6.3 Tax Collector Joyce Hofmann requested a new telephone handset that would function with our current Centralink system as hers has failed. The Board asked Hofmann to get a recommendation from AT&T for the particular style needed. Motion by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to approve up to \$250.00 to purchase a new telephone for the Tax Office, funds to come from TIP. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.4 Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to renew the custodial contract with Richard’s Floor Finish for a two-year period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012 at the same fee and services provided as specified in the 2008-2010 contract. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to add item 6.5 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon the Suspense list as presented by the Tax Collector. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.5 Motion made by Finelli seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the 2008 Tax Suspense List as presented by the Tax Collector. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to add item 6.6 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon renewing the AT&T Service Agreement. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.6 A renewal request for the Town’s annual service agreement with AT&T for equipment has come due, expiring in June. The Selectmen agreed that it was an unnecessary expense. Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to not renew the service agreement with AT&T effective June 7, 2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to add item 6.7 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon Policy for use of Town Green. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.7 Okonuk asked the Board for a clarification of events on the Town Green that requires a review by the full Board rather than just being approved by the First Selectman. Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to establish a policy that local civic, social and non-profit organizations be allowed to use the Town Green, based on availability, for small-scale events with the approval of the First Selectman. Other organizations or large-scale events that prompt concerns regarding traffic, pedestrian safety, etc., will require approval from the Board of Selectmen. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to take up item 4.2 from Correspondence: Vote: Yes, unanimous.

- 4.2 The Selectmen discussed the letter from Card Street residents requesting a traffic study be done on the street. Bendoraitis reminded the Board that local roads cannot refuse truck traffic, and suggested that the Resident State Trooper be asked to observe the traffic and access the situation and make recommendations accordingly.
- 7.0 **Appointments/Reappointments to, and Resignations from, Boards, Commissions and Committees**
- 7.1 Dennis Latchum was present to introduce himself to the Board and discuss his background in relation to his application to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to appoint Dennis Latchum to the Inland Wetlands Commission effective 6/1/2010, term to expire 6/1/2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 7.2 The Selectmen discussed the recommendation of Fire Marshal Scott Schuett to appoint Daniel O'Hearn as Deputy Fire Marshal as he has successfully completed his studies and is now eligible to assume this position. Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to appoint Daniel O'Hearn as Deputy Fire Marshal for a one-year term, effective 5/4/2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 8.0 **Financial Reports**
None
- 9.0 **Tax Refunds for April 2010**
None
- 10.0 **Executive Session**
None
- 11.0 Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Okonuk to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman